



The Rail Gunner Weekly

41st Fires Brigade



1-21 FA



2-20 FA



589th BSB



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Iraqis take control of JSS Salaam



Capt. Rich Turvey, Btry. A, 2nd Bn., 20th FA Regt., commander signs over JSS Salaam to 1st Lt. Jassim Abbas, 3rd Co., 1st Bn., 32nd IA Bde., commander at the transfer ceremony near Numanayah June 20.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson
 41st Fires Bde. PAO

U.S. Forces handed over the responsibility of Joint Security Station Salaam, near Numanayah in Wasit Province, to the Iraqi Army in a ceremony at the JSS June 20.

JSS Salaam is the last JSS where 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade Soldiers were partnered with Iraqi Security Forces in Wasit Province.

Capt. Rich Turvey, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade signed over the JSS to 1st Lt. Jassim Abbas, 3rd Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade.

"We celebrate today to receive the JSS in Numanayah in accordance with the Security Agreement between Iraq and the American government," said Brig. Gen. Abed Gabr Mazloum, 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade commander.

"After all of the training the Iraqi Army received from the American Army, we are ready to take full responsibility and take charge, which is evident by the turning over of the JSSs," added Abed.

The Soldiers of Btry. A took over control of the JSS in August 2008 after the Georgian Army pulled

out of Iraq to help with the crisis in their own country. They initially partnered with an Iraqi Police Special Response team and then the Iraqi Soldiers from the 3rd Co., 1st Bn., 32nd IA Bde.

"I am proud of Alpha 2-20 for their partnership with both the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army while they were here at JSS Salaam. You have prepared your ISF brothers well," said Col. Dick Francey, 41st Fires Bde., commander.

"I am proud of the Iraqi Army; you are a very good organization and more than capable of providing security for this region. I am proud to stand by you as my brothers; our mission is not yet complete. Our partnership with the ISF and the government of Iraq will continue. We promise to stand side-by-side with you as we continue down this path," added Francey in his remarks during the ceremony.

"We appreciate Colonel Francey and all his staff at FOB Delta for their support to us and for giving us these JSSs," said Abed.

The two remaining facilities in Wasit province that will be handed over to the Iraqi Security Forces this month are JSS Aziziyah and Combat Outpost Summers, where 1st Battalion, 77th field Artillery Regiment, 172nd Brigade Combat Team is partnered with the 1st Bn., and 2nd Bn., 32nd Iraqi Army Bde.

Romanian contingent prepares to go home

By Sgt. Allison Churchill
41st Fires Bde. PAO

The Romanian contingent here signaled the end of their army's operations in Iraq with a ceremony at their headquarters June 16.

The ceremony gave both the Romanians and U.S. Soldiers the opportunity to show appreciation for each other.

"We can say we have done a significant amount of work," said Col. Ion Manci, Romanian senior national representative, who came to FOB Delta for the ceremony.

"But our achievement and success would not have been possible without the support of our American partners," said Manci.

The sentiment was echoed shortly after by Col. Dick Francey, commander of 41st Fires Brigade and FOB Delta.

"You can go home and stand proud," Francey told the formation.

Francey continued on to say that due to the increased security in Iraq from the combined efforts of coalition forces and Iraqis "we've given Iraqis a chance" to turn their country around.

As a tangible sign of thanks, the Romanians presented Francey with the Honor Emblem of the Romanian General Staff. They also presented Lt. Col. Brian Pierce, 41st Fires Bde., deputy commander and FOB Delta garrison commander; and Maj. Jennifer Finch, 41st Fires Brigade military intelligence officer-in-charge, with the Honor Emblem of the Romanian Land Forces.



Col. Ion Manci (right), Romanian senior national representative, presents 41st Fires Brigade commander Col. Dick Francey with the Honor Emblem of the Romanian General Staff June 16 during the end of mission ceremony at the Romanian headquarters on FOB Delta.

Photo by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

41st Fires Bde., military intelligence officer-in-charge, with the Honor Emblem of the Romanian Land Forces.

Francey presented the commander of the FOB Delta Romanian contingent, Col. Cornel Pavel, with a Rail Gunner Certificate of Ap-

preciation. The same certificate was also given to the entire contingent.

The Romanians have provided intelligence and unmanned aerial vehicle support to FOB Delta since 2003. They are scheduled to depart in late July.



Left: Col. Ion Manci (right), senior national representative, Romania, presents the Honor Emblem of the Romanian Land Forces to Lt. Col. Brian Pierce, FOB Delta garrison commander, during a ceremony at the Romanian contingent headquarters June 16. Manci also presented the award to Maj. Jennifer Finch, 41st Fires Brigade military intelligence officer-in-charge.



Right: Col. Dick Francey, 41st Fires Brigade commander, presents Rail Gunner Certificates of Appreciation to Col. Cornel Pavel, the FOB Delta Romanian contingent commander and to the contingent during the end-of-mission ceremony.

Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

Rail Gunner Ops celebrate end of tour with ceremony



Sgt. Jacolyn Mills (top left photo, on right), air operations noncommissioned officer; Spc. Jamie Fifield (top right photo, on right), air operations specialist; and Spc. Joel Gonzalez (bottom photo, on right), command post of the future operator, all 41st Fires Brigade, receive their end-of-tour awards, all Army Commendation Medals, from Maj. William Burnett, operations officer-in-charge, during a ceremony June 16.

Other Soldiers receiving awards included: Master Sgt. David Udy, battle noncommissioned officer-in-charge, who received the Bronze Star Medal; Sgt. 1st Class Cardell Drake, battle NCO, who received the Meritorious Service Medal; Staff Sgt. David Kincade, counterfire NCO, who received the ARCOM; Sgt. Enrique Collazo, Sgt. Brandon Fowlkes, Sgt. Billy Marsh, battle NCOs, who each received an ARCOM; Sgt. Troy Turcotte and Sgt. Adrian Benavides, air operations NCOs, who each received an ARCOM; and Spc. John Cook and Spc. Michael Robinson, CPOF operators, who also each received an ARCOM.

The 41st Fires Brigade deployed to FOB Delta in June 2008 and will begin redeploy to Fort Hood in August.

Photos by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde.



Worship Opportunities

Sunday

Chapel 1

Traditional Protestant	0900
Latter-day Saints	1030
Gospel Service	1300
Reconciliation service	1830
Catholic Mass (English)	1930

Monday

Chapel 1

Catholic Mass	0800
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Tuesday

Mayor Cell

Bible Study	1930
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Chapel 1

Bible Study	2000
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Thursday

TMC

Bible Study	1930
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Saturday

Chapel 1

Catholic Mass	0800
Christian Movie Night	2000

Leaders give guidelines for redeployment

By Sgt. Allison Churchill
41st Fires Bde. PAO

Leaders in the 41st Fires Brigade are guiding their Soldiers through the redeployment process as flight dates to Fort Hood get closer and closer.

Several aspects of the redeployment process have changed since the brigade's last deployment, making communication important for Soldiers of all ranks.

"This is my fourth redeployment from Iraq and I still didn't know everything," joked 1st Sgt. Jim Childers, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 41st Fires Bde., during an informational formation June 21.

Effective July 10, all mail arriving on FOB Delta for the brigade headquarters Soldiers will be sent back to Fort Hood. The Iron Caissons of 589th Brigade Support Battalion are accepting mail until July 20, and 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment will receive mail until July 25.

Soldiers enrolled in Soldier support programs such as Soldiers' Angels or AnySoldier.com should notify the services to stop sending care packages, said Cpl. Walter Whisman, HHB mail clerk.

Less mail will ensure Soldiers can keep their luggage down on the trip back to Fort Hood. Soldiers are authorized two duffel bags and a carry-on, but might want to travel as

lightly as possible, said Childers.

Upon redeployment, after the welcome home party, all Soldiers will go on a four-day pass, followed by five days of reintegration training.

The reintegration classes may take place over the weekend, said Capt. Bobby Plowey, HHB Commander.

The classes are taught by Department of Defense civilians, who typically don't work on the weekend, but since Soldiers will be able to sign out for post-deployment block leave upon finishing classes, the rear detachment is working to get the classes finished as quickly as possible, said Plowey.

Soldiers are encouraged to ask their NCOs for more details, said Plowey.

Promotions



Maj. N.K. Okpokwasili, 41st Fires Brigade surgeon, is promoted by Col. Dick Francey, 41st Fires Brigade commander June 15 before a mission.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

In other career advancement news, Air Force Staff Sgt. Shane Roades, combat stress team noncommissioned officer, has been selected for promotion to the rank of tech sergeant. The promotion is based on a points system that includes time in grade, time in service, skills test scores, enlisted performance record and decorations.

Roades, who was one of 7,000 selected out of 37,000 eligible, will probably be promoted in April 2010, said Maj. Philip Bascom, combat stress officer-in-charge. This is Roades fourth Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.

Happy Birthday Maj. Jennifer Finch!



Above: Maj. Jennifer Finch, 41st Fires Brigade intelligence officer-in-charge, walks into a surprise birthday party for her June 20 in the Analyst Control Element.

Below: Sgt. Jon Parker, intelligence non-commissioned officer, respectfully places a lei on the birthday girl, who lived in Hawaii as a child.

*Photos courtesy of
Capt. Donine Watson, 41st Fires Bde.*

